

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nikander (U.S. Patent No. 6,029,151) in view of Melen (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,391). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites “providing, in the Internet access networks, at least one respective interface for registration of communication terminal devices and a cash-free payment for a use of one of the respective Internet access networks which is a respective Internet access network.” This means that there is an interface where registration and a cash free payment can be made to be able to use the Internet. In other words, one can use this interface to gain access to the Internet without a previously established Internet account. Nikander relates to an already existing Internet account and making it easier for a user to pay for things with electronic money. Nikander does not relate to an interface which provides for registration of a communication terminal device for use of an Internet access network. Nikander already has that relationship established and merely uses this relationship to buy things over the Internet. Nikander does not disclose that the cash-free payment enables the actual use of an Internet access network, and thereby enables access to the Internet.

The Examiner states that Nikander discloses everything that is claimed except for registration over the network. The Examiner relies on Melen as teaching this feature. However, applicants submit that Melen does not teach that which the Examiner asserts. Further, Nikander actually teaches away from the combination.

Melen teaches a way in which billing for the purchase of products is handled in a way that is characteristic for the telephone network charging, where a single service or purchase is registered to the product purchaser's or telephone service user's bill (col. 3, line 63 to col. 4, line 1). Melen does not teach that a cash-free payment for a use of one of the respective Internet access networks. Melen does not relate to paying for Internet access, but rather for paying for goods purchased over the Internet. Thus, both of these references fail to teach or suggest this feature.

Further, even if Melen did teach that which the Examiner asserts, Nikander teaches away from this feature. As stated before, Nikander's method is only executable with connections which already exist and the Internet connection is already in use by the mobile communications terminal before a payment via a commercial interface takes place. Thus, it would be undesirable to modify Nikander to create the claimed invention and is contrary to the way in which it already operates.

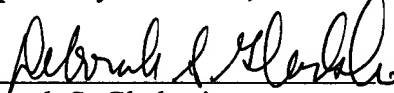
In light of the foregoing, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122031000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Deborah S. Gladstein

Registration No.: 43,636
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 400
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 760-7753